

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), comprising:

accessing a companion file of pre-validated addresses;

comparing the address to the pre-validated addresses in the companion file for validating the address;

printing the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses;

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

if the address is not validated based on the companion file of pre-validated addresses, receiving the address from a terminal remote from the database;

~~accessing the database;~~

comparing the address received from the remote terminal ~~with the database of~~ to the pre-approved addresses for validating the address;

printing ~~a validated~~ the address on the VBI, if the address is validated based on the database of pre-approved addresses;

and

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

storing information relating to the validated address, in the companion file, upon a validation of the address based on the database of pre-approved addresses.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the address from the database of addresses is saved as comma-separated value (CSV) data, and further including:

determining selected characteristics of the database of addresses; and

processing the CSV address data based on the characteristics of the database of addresses.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including:

receiving a second address from the source;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein accessing the database comprises accessing a remote database over a communication network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for matching an address with a database of pre-approved addresses for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), the method comprising:

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses with a predetermined format in the database;

receiving address data with different formats;

mapping the received address data with the different formats into the predetermined format;

comparing the received address data in the predetermined format ~~with~~ to the pre-approved addresses in the database for validating the address;

~~presenting~~ displaying the results for selection by a user, if one or more matches are found;

selecting an address from the results; and

printing a the selected address on the VBI.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein comparing data in the predetermined format with valid addresses

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

in the database comprises accessing a remote database of addresses over a communication network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the database is maintained by a remote address matching server.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein manipulating comprises applying a plurality of query permuters to the address data to convert the data into respective formats.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein applying a plurality of query permuters comprises applying at least one of a direct permuter and a single line permuter to the address data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein applying further comprises applying a truncate permuter to the output structure of the direct permuter.

24.-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A method for validating an address for printing on a value bearing item (VBI), the method comprising:

storing a plurality of pre-approved addresses in a database;

receiving the address from a user using a terminal remote from the database over a wide area network;

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

~~authenticating the user using a cryptographic module remote from the terminal and communicating with the terminal over a wide area network;~~

accessing the database from a server that is communicating with the terminal over the wide area network;

comparing the address received from the ~~user with remote terminal to~~ the database of pre-approved addresses ~~for validating the address;~~

transmitting the comparison results to the remote terminal;

displaying the results on the remote terminal;

selecting a validated address from the displayed results;

and

printing a the selected validated address on the VBI.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising storing information relating to the validated address in the companion file upon a validation of the address.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein receiving the address comprises importing the address from a database of addresses.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

receiving a second address from the user;

comparing selected information from the second address with stored information in the companion file;

Appln No. 09/692,031

Amdt date June 10, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 11, 2005

approving the address for use if the selected information corresponds with the stored information in the companion file; and

accessing the database of valid addresses if no match is found.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein comparing the second address with the stored addresses in the companion file comprises determining whether a stored address in the companion file is stale, and rejecting the stored address if it is stale.